(c) According to DESU, the system of four monthly reading of meters in respect of domestic consumers does not specifically lead to misuse of energy or cause loss to DESU as a Four-digit Meter can record consumption upto 9999 units which a domestic consumer is not likely top exceed in a period of four months.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c)of the Question.

[*Translation*]

Direct train between Indore and Madras

5392. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made to introduce a direct train service to link Indore with Madras; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STAT E IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has been examined but not found feasible.

[*English*]

Contract for Oil Exploration in Himachal Pradesh

5393. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has awarded contract for oil and gas exploration in Changartalai area in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the detailed of contracts and the terms and conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STAT E IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Not a contract for exploration but a drilling contract has been awarded to Mahindra and Mahindra for Jwalamukhi project or any other location in Northern Regional Business Centre of ONGC. The contract is on daily rate basis for a period of two years for one rig.

Overstay of Contractual Engineers in ITDC

5394. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons in the Engineering Cadre of ITDC appointed on contractual basis are allowed to continue to look after the important assi. gments involving financial and other transactions after the expiry of their contract period;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the details of such persons as on June, 1991 alongwith the job/assigment being undertaken by each of them;

(c) whether cases of irregularities/ mapractices/leakage of funds have been reported on account of these persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken/propose to be taken in this regard; and

(e) whether these persons are likely to be removed from the organisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Five Assistant Managers (Engg.) have been continuing after expiry of their contract.

(b) Statement appended.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Continuation of their employment will be considered in the light of operational necessities with the ITDC.